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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

- 1 1. (original) A method, comprising the steps of:
  - 2 (a) obtaining information relevant to the quality of service of voice calls being
  - 3 transmitted from a first location to a second location via an IP network;
  - 4 (b) calculating a parameter based on said information; and
  - 5 (c) accepting a new call into the IP network in the case of said parameter not
  - 6 exceeding an upper threshold.
- 1 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said new call is accepted into the IP
- 2 network at a reduced bandwidth in the case of said parameter exceeding a lower
- 3 threshold.
- 1 3. (original) The method of claim 1 where said new call is not accepted into the
- 2 IP network in the case of said parameter exceeding the upper threshold.
- 1 4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the information obtained
- 2 is a number of ~~lost packets, late packets and received packets (collectively defined~~
- 3 ~~as "sent" packets)~~ sent packets transmitted from said first location to said second
- 4 location in the IP network, wherein the number of sent packets comprises a number
- 5 of lost packets, a number of late packets and a number of received packets.
- 1 5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the information obtained is a delay
- 2 of received packets transmitted from said first location to said second location in the
- 3 IP network.
- 1 6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the information obtained is a delay
- 2 variation of received packets transmitted from said first location to said second
- 3 location in the IP network.
- 1 7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the information is obtained on a
- 2 periodic basis.

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1 8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the information is obtained on an  
2 exception basis using an immediate report.

1 9. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the parameter is identified as a packet  
2 lost ratio (PLR).

1 10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein PLR is defined as

2 
$$PLR = \frac{(\text{lost packets} + \text{late packets})}{(\text{received packets} + \text{lost packets} + \text{late packets})}$$

1 11. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein bandwidth is reduced for a newly  
2 accepted call by selecting a first encoder to encode the new voice call information in a  
3 bandwidth that is smaller than bandwidths of other calls accepted in the network that  
4 are encoded by a second encoder.

1 12. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the bandwidth of a newly  
2 accepted call is reduced by increasing the packet size ~~(voice sample)~~ for said newly  
3 accepted voice call, wherein the packet size is indicative of a size of a corresponding  
4 voice sample.

1 13. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the bandwidth of a newly accepted call  
2 is reduced by activating the characteristic of silence suppression for said newly  
3 accepted voice call.

1 14. (original) Apparatus comprising a gateway for interfacing voice call data from a  
2 public switch telephone network to an internet protocol network; said gateway further  
3 comprising:

- 4 a first circuit for passing said voice call data to the internet protocol network;  
5 a second circuit for polling the internet protocol network about traffic information  
6 transmitted therein; and  
7 a third circuit for processing the polled information to determine whether the  
8 voice call data is to be accepted by the internet protocol network.

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1 15. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said first circuit further comprises  
2 one or more Ethernet cards that are connected to the internet protocol network.

1 16. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said second circuit is at least one  
2 strongarm card.

1 17. (original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the strongarm card is connected to  
2 the Ethernet card via a host CPU circuit.

1 18. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the third circuit compares a  
2 parameter based on the polled information to a plurality of thresholds.

1 19. (original) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the parameter is a packet loss ratio  
2 defined as

3 
$$PLR = \frac{(\text{lost packets} + \text{late packets})}{(\text{received packets} + \text{lost packets} + \text{late packets})}$$

1 20. (original) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the third circuit compares the packet  
2 loss ratio to a lower threshold and if the packet loss ratio is less than the lower threshold,  
3 a new voice call is accepted into the internet protocol network.

1 21. (original) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the third circuit compares the packet  
2 loss ratio to the lower threshold and an upper threshold, and if lower threshold < packet  
3 loss ratio < upper threshold, a new voice call is accepted into the internet protocol  
4 network at a reduced bandwidth.

1 22. (original) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the third circuit compares the packet  
2 loss ratio to the upper threshold, and if the packet loss ratio is greater than the upper  
3 threshold, a new voice call is blocked from entering the internet protocol network.